

Remarks

Claims 1-17, 21, and 23-25 are pending. Claim 25 is newly presented herein.
Reconsideration of claims 1-17, 21, 23, and 24 is requested as is consideration of claim 25.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's willingness to discuss the final rejections to claims 1-17, 21, 23, and 24 in the telephone interview conducted on July 12, 2006. While no agreement was reached, Applicant appreciates the Examiner's efforts.

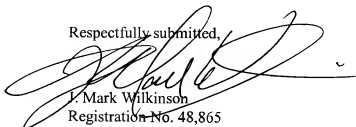
Claims 1-17, 21, 23, and 24 are currently under final rejection. The Examiner, in the Advisory Action of June 23, 2006, maintained the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) of independent claims 1, 12, and 21 as being anticipated by Wu et al. As discussed with and acknowledged by the Examiner during the telephone interview of July 12, 2006, Wu et al. explicitly teaches a glue layer "208" sandwiched between and in contact with a pair of dielectric layers "206" and "210", as best shown in Fig. 2E of U.S. Pat. No. 6,013,581. As shown in Fig. 2E, a portion of the glue layer "208" is in contact with a barrier/glue layer "222" rather than dielectric layer "210". In either case, the structure described by Wu et al. does not include a metal layer deposited "onto the upper surface of [an] inter-treated glue layer," as recited, in part, in claim 1. Also, a method of manufacturing the structure disclosed by Wu et al. does not include "forming a metal layer on the upper surface of [a] glue layer," as recited, in part, in claim 12. Regarding claim 21, the method of manufacturing the structure disclosed by Wu et al. does not include "forming a glue layer on [a] first metal layer," as recited, in part, in claim 21.

Applicant has also added claim 25 for reconsideration. Claim 25 calls for, in part, a method that includes "forming a glue layer directly on [a] first metal layer." Wu et al. teaches formation of a glue layer on a dielectric layer rather than a metal layer.

Therefore, it is clear from at least the foregoing that independent claims 1, 12, 21, and 25 are patentably distinct from that disclosed by the art of record and, therefore, are in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 2-11, 13-17, 23, and 24 depend from and further limit independent claims 1, 12, and 21 and therefore are allowable as well.

As no outstanding issues remain, an early formal notice of allowance of claims 1-17, 21, and 23-25 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Mark Wilkinson', is written over the typed name and registration number.

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